

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT/FR2003/003156



PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/FR2003/003156	International filing date (day/month/year) 24 octobre 2003 (24.10.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 06 novembre 2002 (06.11.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC A23L 1/00		
Applicant	ROQUETTE FRERES	

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.
 This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).
These annexes consist of a total of _____ sheets.
3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
 - I Basis of the report
 - II Priority
 - III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
 - IV Lack of unity of invention
 - V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
 - VI Certain documents cited
 - VII Certain defects in the international application
 - VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 19 avril 2004 (19.04.2004)	Date of completion of this report 20 September 2004 (20.09.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

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International application No.

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I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:^{*}

- the international application as originally filed
 the description:

pages _____ 1-22 _____, as originally filed
 pages _____ , filed with the demand
 pages _____ , filed with the letter of _____

- the claims:

pages _____ 1-9 _____, as originally filed
 pages _____ , as amended (together with any statement under Article 19
 pages _____ , filed with the demand
 pages _____ , filed with the letter of _____

- the drawings:

pages _____ , as originally filed
 pages _____ , filed with the demand
 pages _____ , filed with the letter of _____

- the sequence listing part of the description:

pages _____ , as originally filed
 pages _____ , filed with the demand
 pages _____ , filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item. These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
 the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
 the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
 The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
 The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages _____
 the claims, Nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/fig. _____

5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).^{**}

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

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V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims	1 - 9	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1 - 9	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1 - 9	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

This report makes reference to the following documents:

D1: US-A-2002/146487

D2: EP-A-1 006 128

D3: US-B-6 348 2641

D4: US-A-5 458 892

D5: US-A-5 612 202

D6: US-A-3 974 032

D7: US-A-5 886 168

Documents D1 and D3-D7 describe the use of various maltodextrins in agglomeration processes.

The subject matter of claims 1 and 9 differs from that prior art by the selection of specific maltodextrins having the following features: 15-35% of 1-6 bonds, Mw/Mn < 5, Mn < 4500 g/moles.

Document D2 describes maltodextrins having these features but does not mention their use for granulation purposes.

The subject matter of claims 1-9 is therefore novel (PCT Article 33(2)).

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The present invention can therefore be considered to address the problem of providing an alternative to maltodextrin-type agglomeration agents, such as those disclosed by D1 and D3-D7, which can be used in smaller amounts (3-13%) and add a nutritional value (low in calories and caries-producing properties, prebiotic properties).

The solution to this problem, as proposed in claims 1 and 9 of the present application, is considered to involve an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)) because a person skilled in the art would not be prompted by D2, which describes the claimed maltodextrins, to use them as agglomerating agents. Moreover, the higher viscosity of these maltodextrins would discourage a person skilled in the art from such a use (cf. table I of the present application).